

SOUTH POLE WAS ONCE TROPICAL

Discoveries by Explorer and Facts of Zoology Strengthen This Theory; the Finds are Significant in Character

The one great fact established by the unfortunate Captain Scott's expedition to the South Pole is that abundant life and a warm climate formerly existed there, while at the same time around what is now the equator was a gigantic circle of impassable ice. In other words, our frozen poles were then tropical jungles and our equator a frozen waste, says a writer in the Buffalo Express.

This is of vital importance to our knowledge of the earth's history. It means that in some earlier period, life was distributed in a manner entirely different from the present, and that the climate of the whole earth was different.

Commander Evans, in his report of Captain Scott's last journey, says:

"Before descending the Beardmore glacier, Dr. Wilson and Lieutenant Bowers visited Buckley Island and climbed to a large nunatak at the top of the glacier. There they spent some time making a large collection of fossil-bearing sandstone and coal in quantities."

"When they reached a small depot under Cloudmaker mountain fossils of much greater age were found in the limestone, and a total of thirty-five pounds of geological specimens were carefully packed."

"It is to that locality, and that is why we find the kangaroos only in Australia."

Why should life originate at the poles if they are frigid and barren of vegetation. Obviously it shouldn't. This difficulty disappears entirely, however, when we learn that the poles had once a warm, possibly torrid climate and supported an abundant vegetation.

Then came the glacial epoch and the animals were driven toward the equator which had by that time become warm. Some species passed the equator and continued to evolve in the opposite hemisphere to that in which they originated. Others were stopped by natural obstacles, from spreading so far.

While the animals were developing continents have been formed. But have passed away, great plains have been upheaved by nature into stupendous mountain ranges, thousands of square miles have sunk and lie hundreds of feet deep under ocean shades.

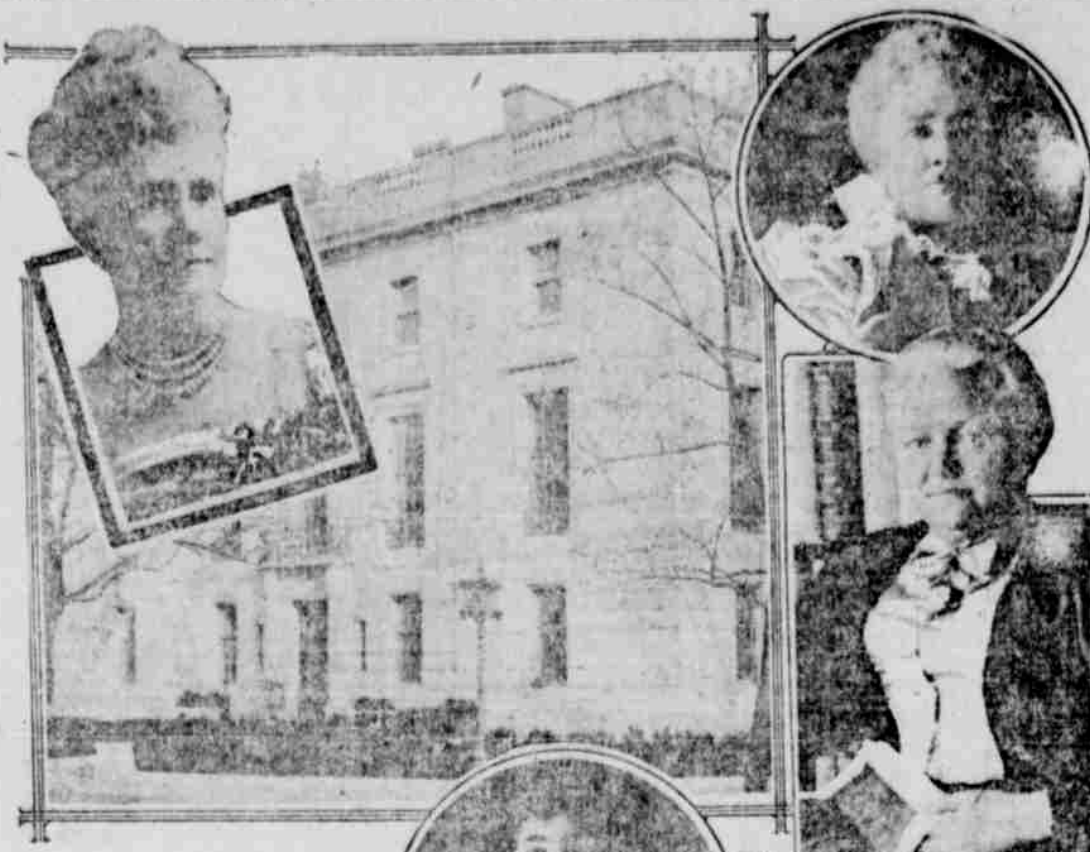
It is but yesterday, in geological time, since Asia and America were united, both at Behring Straits and by a peninsula which now remains as the chain of the American and the Kaul Islands.

To the geologist the time seems not so far back when there was no Baltic sea, no North sea, no English channel, when the Mediterranean sea was a small enclosed lake, and Europe extended from the North Pole to the great Sahara desert in Africa (the sea) and when the continental mass of Europe extended west of the coast of Ireland to today.

From what has been said of the geography of those times, therefore, and from this rule of evolution, it is to be expected that one might trace two great lines of development; more or less characteristic of the two polar continents.

Fauna of Southern Hemisphere
Considering the peninsula as the most familiar of the great animal

RICH WIDOWS ARE ABOUT SOCIALLY SUPREME IN WASHINGTON



Left, Mrs. Hitt and her Washington home; top right, Mrs. M. A. Hanna; bottom right, Mrs. John A. Logan; Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh.

Rich widows have come into their own in Washington and are now about socially supreme in that city. In a social way. Among the leaders are Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh, Mrs. Marcus A. Hanna, Mrs. John A. Logan, Mrs. William F. Draper, Mrs. John B. Henderson, Mrs. E. R. Hitt and Mrs. John Hay.

group, it is astonishing to find in Australia the striking preponderance of marsupials such as the kangaroos and wombats, and the exclusive appearance of the monotremes, such as the echininas and duck-billed platypus.

The marsupials or mammals which have a pouch bring forth the young half-born, as it were, and continuing birth processes in a pouch of the skin are evidently later than the placentation, the primitive creature which, though a mammal, lays eggs. Of this great group there are 10 different kinds, of which there are still some types living. Of these 10, nine are found only in Australia and neighboring islands.

South America and Africa may be bracketed together in just one curious way, viz., the absence from both continents of early forms of the carnivorous dog and cat families. As a result the non-flesh-eating mammals were preyed on in Africa solely by flesh-eating creatures, of which there are no living types. This led partly to the development in South America of the opossum, coyote, sloth, armadillo and various forms of life which could have not survived the struggle for existence had there been present the specialized and active feline and canine beasts of prey.

But the problem as to the geographical origin of the ancestors of man still remains. There seems good evidence that he is not of the Antarctic type.

As the highest form of animal, therefore, man has developed in the central portion of Eurasia, the development of the principal mammal development in the history of the world. Hither the highest species of animals migrate from their original cradles at the North and South poles.

The finding of coal is most significant. It means that the Antarctic continent formerly possessed a climate that was practically tropical. The fern-like trees of the carboniferous period that flourished in a swampy soil with an atmosphere of high temperature.

Fossils in Antarctic
The discovery of large quantities of fossils in the heart of the Antarctic continent proves, moreover, that animal life was formerly abundant there, but the cables reports say that mammals and large land animals of various kinds were among them.

At the present time there are no land mammals native to the Antarctic continent or to the islands bordering upon it. True forms of land life are confined to insects and other low forms and even such life as this is extremely scarce.

The larger forms of life found around the fringe of the continent consist of penguins and seals, which, of course, are not exclusively land animals. They do not find their food on land, but in the ocean, where they find an abundant supply of fish. Of account of their aquatic habits they are not confined to the barren continent on which they find a more or less uninterrupted lodging.

There is also a strange species of crab, edible, and able to withstand the temperature of the Antarctic. These are all that is left of the teeming life of ages ago.

Captain Scott has, therefore, added greatly to our knowledge by the expedition in which he lost his life. The same conclusion could not be proved so positively from researches at the North pole, because that point is not situated on a great land continent, but in the midst of the sea. Evidence

of a former warm climate have, indeed, been found in Arctic regions, but they are too far away from the pole to permit a conclusion to be drawn with the same certainty as is the case of the South pole.

Total Change in Earth's Climate
How can we explain this total change in the earth's climate? It must be explained by one of two theories.

First—That the earth has changed its axis so that the poles occupy positions along what was formerly the equator.

Second—That the amount of heat in the earth's surface is distributed otherwise than in earlier ages, although the position of the earth's axis remains the same.

The second supposition may appear less clear and reasonable than the first, but it has lately received more support from prominent scientists who favor it partly because they find that there are not good astronomical grounds for argument that the earth has undergone a radical change of axis. That it changes its axis slightly is certain.

In connection with the proof of tropical life at the poles we must consider the fact that there are the plainest evidences of glacial life at the equator. These conditions may be accounted for by the supposition that the earth then possessed so much internal heat that it produced a warm climate at the poles and that a heavy belt of clouds hung around the equator, making the climate cold in tropical regions.

These two suppositions are discussed in a recent book on the sun by Prof. Chas. G. Abbot of the Smithsonian Institution, who states them thus:

(a) Perhaps the sun in those early times was not so nearly exclusively as now the earth's source of heat, and the earth still retained so much heat that its life was practically independent of the sun except for light. Perhaps then the sun has been gradually growing in temperature and emission, and in Peruvian times had not become the practical exclusive source of heat to the earth's surface. We may then consider if Peruvian glaciation was perhaps due as Manson has suggested, to a very moderate elevation of land areas with a region of still prevailing low lying cloud mantle, will accompanying snowy precipitation.

(b) Perhaps the sun in very ancient times had not yet altogether condensed to a pronounced nucleus, but still existed as a nebula of very considerable size, so that the earth was illuminated and warmed from all directions, or (if no part of the nebula included the earth) at least from nearly a hemisphere. This, of course, would promote uniformity of temperature from the equator to the poles. If, then, receiving radiation from a very large solid angle the intensity of the radiation need have been only very slight indeed to maintain the earth's temperature. Such radiation might be furnished by a cloud of small particles, furnished by a cloud of small particles (not cases) completing the nebula. Even if they give no considerable radiation of their own they would reflect that of the hotter solar nucleus.

Another important bearing of the discovery of former life at the South pole is to confirm the bipolar theory of the origin of life which was first outlined by Charles Darwin in his "Descent of Man."

The simple fact that kangaroos are only found in Australia, that llamas are only found in South America, that polar bears are only found near the North pole, that animals of the ox family are only found in the northern hemisphere, and other data of this kind point plainly to the conclusion that various species of animals originated near the poles and spread thence over the rest of the globe.

ONLY "HIGHER-UP" IN FUEL CASE NOW

James B. Smith, of the Western Fuel Company is now being tried in the federal court at San Francisco. Originally a half dozen were in the net. President John L. Howard of the company died two weeks ago and the case against him was dropped. Then followed the dismissal of the indictments against Treasurer Joseph L. Schmidt and Directors Sidney V. Smith and Robert Bruce. The one official whom the government hopes to convict is Vice President and General Manager James B. Smith. The Fuel Company men were charged with having criminally conspired to cheat the government by underweighing dutiable imports of coal and overweighing fuel sold both for government use and to private consumers.

from their Unionist opponents but on several questions from Liberals as well. Fortunately for the Government it probably will have the support of many Unionists on the questions that the repelling radicals will choose for their attacks.

The occasion will open with debate on the reply to the speech from the throne. This reply outlines the government's measures and members of the House are privileged to criticize it at any point they desire. For example, some member may move an amendment expressing regret that the Government did not accept the invitation to have an official British exhibit at the Panama Pacific Exposition at San Francisco. It is expected such a motion will be made and it probably will receive considerable support. But the real test of Government strength is more likely to be taken on some more important subject. Some way will probably be found for bringing up the Irish question, although the Home Rule Bill is already before Parliament and is therefore excluded from the preliminary debate on the Government's program. A motion might be made, however, regretting that the negotiations for settling the Ulster situation had failed and this would mean a test vote.

Every Unionist member has been requested to be present on the opening day, and no pairs with opponents are being granted, so it appears certain that the opposition plans to force the Government to resign or dissolve Parliament.

Dissolution, it will be remembered is one of the demands of the Unionists before the passing of the Home Rule Bill. However, the Liberals, Nationalists and Laborites are just as alert and with Premier Asquith at their head, feel confident of encompassing any Unionist designs.

There is, however, also some danger for the Unionists in the debate. The modification of the policy of tariff reform, endorsed by Bonar Law, by which "food taxes" are dropped, has not met with entire satisfaction in the party. The farmers, largely Unionists, are asking why they should be deprived of that protection, which they were told Tariff Reform would give them, while the manufacturers receive it. Unionist members for agricultural districts have been inundated with protests and it is probable that some strong tariff reformer will move an amendment that will bring the question up. Then Austin Chamberlain and other tariff reform stalwarts would come out in support of the whole policy, which would be a practical throwing over of Bonar Law, Walter Long and other Unionist leaders, who in the words of one of their own supporters, have thrown over the party's platform for fear of the effect of "food taxes" on the workingmen.

After debate on the Government's program comes the estimates for the various departments, and with one of the Government's greatest dangers. Unless Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, can keep his naval estimates down to what they were last year, there will be a great uproar from Liberal benches. The Radical economists, who at least have the moral support of Lloyd George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, have repeatedly declared they will stand for an increase.

In taking up the regular measures it is understood that the Welsh Disestablishment Bill will be given precedence over Home Rule, which will be left until the last in hope that some compromise will be forthcoming. Between these two big measures will be introduced the bill to abolish plural voting, which has already passed once under the Parliament Act and which Liberal election agents are deeply anxious to see made law before another election, as they believe most of the plural voters are Unionists.

What new legislation the Government plans has not yet been disclosed, but the Liberal platform and the promises of ministers afford lots of material. First of all there is the reconstitution of the House of Lords. While the Upper Chamber's powers have been curtailed so that it can no longer vote a bill passed by the House of commons, yet can only delay it, the constitution of that body remains as it was and that satisfies nobody. The cut and out radicals would abolish the chamber altogether but that is hardly to be seriously considered. The plan most favored is a mixed plan of election by constituency and nomination by the House of commons on a plan of proportional representation.

There are temperance and education reform, both of which have been promised by the Government. Both are highly controversial and a lot of time would be required for them. If they came up at all it would likely be until an autumn session, especially since the educational problem brings up the whole question of denominational education and the old fight between the Church of England and the Non-conformists.

British Government on the Alert to Defend Important Measures in Coming Session

(By Associated Press.)
LONDON, Feb. 14.—After the longest vacation that members have enjoyed since the Liberal party came into power eight years ago, Parliament reassembles Tuesday for a session that promises to be full of hard work and excitement.

There are not only the Home Rule and Welsh Disestablishment Bills, which come up for third passage and if then to become law despite anything the Lords may do, but there is a great mass of other business which will compel the Government to fight continuously to hold the confidence of the House of Commons. From start to finish of a session a British government must keep on the alert to prevent an adverse vote, which if it has the back of a majority of the members, means the retirement of the ministry. The danger will be more acute than ever during this session.

From the moment that King George leaves the House of Lords after delivering his speech from the throne opening the proceedings, the Government will be under fire, not only

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DEHORNING OF FOREST MEN

Decision Rendered in the Yard Case Sets to Right Some of the Abuses Practiced at the Expense of Mining.

The Santa Fe, N. M. Land Office, recently received the full opinion of Secretary A. A. Jones, reversing the department of the interior in the famous Yard case, which conferred the illegal right upon forest officials to attack the validity of a claim, whether agricultural or mineral, prior to the time when an application was formally presented to the government of the United States and before the land department acquired jurisdiction. The syllabus of that case was as follows:

"The land department has full authority, of its own motion or at the instance of others, to inquire into and determine whether mining locations within national forests were preceded by the requisite discovery of mineral and whether the lands are of the character subject to occupation and purchase under the mining laws, notwithstanding the locator has not applied for patent, and if the locations be found to be invalid, the lands covered thereby will be administered as part of the public domain, subject to the reservation for forest purposes, without regard to the locations."

The Yard Decision
Now comes Andrew A. Jones, citizen of New Mexico, now first assistant secretary of the interior and holds in the case "ex parte J. F. Nichols and Cy Smith, coming before him from the United States land office official, and the commissioner of the general land office, affirmed the opinion of La Grande, Ore., wherein the action in the Yard case, and reversing former Secretary of the Interior Ethan Allen Hitchcock and says:

"The proceeding was instituted under authority of the department holding in H. H. Yard, et al., (38 L. D. 50) upon the report of an examiner of mining claims of the forest service, upon which the following charges were formulated and served upon the claimants:

"1. That there have been no discoveries of minerals upon the lands embraced in said claims or either of them.

"2. That said claims are not held in good faith for mining purposes, but for the purpose of speculation and the rental of the lands to parties for grazing purposes.

"A hearing upon said charges was duly had before the local officers, who rendered a decision recommending that the claims be declared null and void upon the ground that there had been no discovery of mineral upon the land. The finding and recommendation of the local officers were affirmed by the commissioner of the general land office, as has been stated.

"After a careful consideration of the question presented by this record, the department is convinced that the policy followed by the land department since the decision in the Yard case, supra, is entirely indefensible, whether viewed from an administrative or legal standpoint.

"While the title to land remaining in the United States and controversies arise between occupants, thereof whether agricultural or mineral, neither party having invoked the jurisdiction of the land department for the purpose of acquiring the ultimate title, the courts have the power to determine their rights, based upon the law of possession and all other questions necessarily involved. Little on Mines paragraph 108, citing Marques vs. Frisbie, 101 U. S. 473, 475. Especially is this true of a valid location of mineral lands, which is property and, while maintained as required by law, has the effect of a grant of a right to the exclusive possession thereof against the United States as well as any other party, plaintiff or defendant. (See Belk vs. Meagher, 194 U. S. 279, and Gwllin vs. Dnellen, 115 U. S. 43). Being thus a vested legal right enforceable in the courts, they necessarily have jurisdiction to determine whether the right does or does not exist. This jurisdiction, in the absence of an application to the department looking to the acquisition of the legal title, is clearly exclusive, since the question as to whether lands have or have not been discovered is one which the courts alone can decide. (See Hardin vs. Jordan, 140 U. S. 371). The reason for this rule applies as well to any vested interest as to the entire fee to the land.

"Lacking in any of the essentials to validity, the attempted location of a mining claim is a nullity and will exclude no one from the land. The courts are open alike to the government and all claimants under the agricultural and mineral land laws, and they have not only the jurisdiction to determine but the power to enforce the judgments and decrees in cases involving a possessory claim to land. Not so with this department, whose undoubted authority to dispose of public land embraced in an invalid location does not extend to entertaining bills for the removal of clouds upon title, or actions for trespass or in ejectment. Attempt to the secretary of the interior to usurp the functions of the courts must be barren of results, since the law provides that neither the power nor the machinery for the enforcement of any judgment or decree in matters of which jurisdiction is committed to the courts. In fact, one of the fundamental tests of jurisdiction is the answer to the question, 'Has the tribunal power to enforce its judgment?'—a lack of such power negating the possession of jurisdiction in the premises.

"The department is moreover not convinced either of the propriety in or the necessity for the rendition of such a judgment as was entered in the Yard case, supra. It would amount to no more than the expression of an opinion coupled with a declaration of purpose. If infallibility and binding force could be assumed on behalf of such an expression and declaration all might be well, but to the extent that such a decision might mislead others, whether citizens or officers of the government, into an unwarranted invasion of private right, it would be as repugnant to good administration as subversive of law.

"In arriving at the conclusion here reached, the department is merely returning to the position it had uniformly assumed in like case prior to the decision in the Yard case. It is not believed that anything of convincing force can be added to the reasoning of Secretary Hitchcock in *Nome & Simook Co., et al., vs. Townsite of Nome* (34 L. D. 275), in which he held that the land department was without jurisdiction in inquiries of the character here under consideration.

"The Yard case and all others of a like tenor are, accordingly overruled, and the decision appealed from is reversed and the proceedings dismissed.

"A. A. JONES,
"First Assistant Secretary."

Orpheum Monday—"The Shriner's Daughter."

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